

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 6 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's APA (Fig. 7, and spec. pages 1-3) in view of Rice in view of Grime (U.S. Pat. No. 3,687,465).

In view of the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action of October 13, 2010, claims 6 and 14 have been amended to include the structural features argued in the previous responses, for example, that a diameter of the packing and the plasma seal is larger than a space between two installation members in a direction of compression to provide a condition of being pinched (attached by being pinched) directly between the two installation members in a state that both receives a reaction force under compression, as mentioned in the previous response submitted on October 13, 2010. In the current claims 6 and 14, the structural feature that the packing and plasma seal are pinched directly between the two installation members providing the plasma seal to be compressed between the side wall portion of the packing installation groove and the packing is now recited and as supported in one example at page 8, lines 4-8 of the specification.

In contrast, the Examiner has commented that " Fig. 2 of Grime is in the uncompressed state, and both the ring and arc 17 would be in contact with the two mating structures when compressed". However, the Examiner's comment appears to

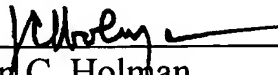
be wide of the mark, as can be seen from the description of Grime, starting from column 4, line 59 to column 5, line 22. For example, it is mentioned in Grime that “During the period of assembly when the support ring 17 and the O-ring 4 are being pushed by the distance piece 14 into position within the annular space in which they are to lie, the support ring 17 can move freely into the position in which the central region 30 of its convex surface abuts the plane end wall 15a of the distance piece 14.” (column 5, lines 2 to 8), and that “When, after assembly, fluid pressure from within the pipe 4 acts in normal manner upon the O-ring 6 to apply pressure to it in the direction indicated by the arrow in FIG. 2 the support ring 17 will be distorted by the force applied to it by the O-ring 6 so that.....”. It can be understood that in an assembled state both of the O-ring 6 and the supporting ring 17 are not distorted or compressed between two installation members, and the supporting ring 17 is not distorted or compressed until fluid pressure acts upon the O-ring 6 to apply pressure to it in the direction toward the supporting ring 17. Thus, such sealing structure is quite different from that of the present invention.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should now be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By: 
John C. Holman
Reg. No. 22,769

400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
(202) 638-6666
Date: November 15, 2010
JCH/JLS:crj